

From: Gabe Burt
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/9/01 6:00pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Ma'am or Sir,

I am concerned about what I have heard about proposed settlements in the Microsoft Anti-Trust Case. From what I understand Microsoft is trying to get wording included in the settlement that will allow them to exclude and take advantage of Open Source projects. They are trying to include language that would allow them to allow commercial organizations access to more of their code and therefore be able to develop and compete, but this excludes the majority of software development in the Open Source (GNU/Linux and many more) communities.

Also, I read about a proposal from Microsoft that would allow them to spend \$1.1 billion on hardware and software for the poorest school districts. Not only do I find this ludicrous because this does nothing to diminish their status as a monopoly, but they want to spend the vast majority of that money on their own software. I am disgusted that nine states have agreed to this settlement. It is a grossly unfair settlement. It has Microsoft pay only a very small amount of money for actual hardware (\$200 million, I believe), and puts Microsoft software on those computers, thereby advancing Microsoft's stance in the education market. If any variation of the proposal was to be accepted, I feel nothing less than having Microsoft pay entirely for hardware and equipping the computers with Red Hat Linux software is fair.

Microsoft was ruled a monopoly. Calling these settlements a punishment is laughable. Please don't let these ridiculously unfair settlements go through. They will do nothing but add to the choke hold Microsoft has on the software development world, and lead to a further lack of choice for consumers.

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